

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 16 has been canceled. Claims 1-3, 11 and 26 have been amended. All of the pending claims 1 through 26 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing pharmaceutical information to a patient, said method comprising:
dispensing a pharmaceutical product having an electronically identifiable tag associated with said pharmaceutical product;
electronically reading said electronically identifiable tag of said pharmaceutical product to identify said pharmaceutical product;
prompting said patient with a selective opportunity to accept or decline prescription counseling by interacting with an electronic input device;
wherein said patient selects to accept said prescription counseling by step-wise interactively,
retrieving electronically stored pharmaceutical ~~counseling~~ information about said pharmaceutical product in increasingly detailed information comprising; ~~and~~
special directions;
precautions;
other drug interactions;
adverse side effects; and or
actions to be taken in event a dose is missed; and
electronically disclosing said stored pharmaceutical information visually and/or audibly counseling to said patient.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein electronically disclosing said stored pharmaceutical counseling to said patient comprises: electronically prompting said patient with a first message, wherein said first message provides said patient with an interactive choice of accepting or declining said pharmaceutical counseling; and wherein said pharmaceutical counseling is electronically disclosed to said patient upon said patient interactively choosing to accept said pharmaceutical counseling, based upon said information derived from said electronic identification of said pharmaceutical product, or wherein no pharmaceutical information is electronically disclosed to said patient upon said patient interactively choosing to decline said pharmaceutical counseling; and a historical record is established for the patient counseling interaction.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising: electronically prompting said patient with a second message at each step of interactively retrieving electronically stored pharmaceutical information which provides said patient with an interactive option to speak with a pharmacist; and wherein said patient interactively ~~accepts or declines~~ interrupts retrieving electronically stored pharmaceutical information to accept or decline said option to speak with a pharmacist.

4. (Previously canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said electronic input device comprises a touch-screen display, a microphone or a keyboard.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising electronically creating an electronic log of said interaction of said patient.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising said patient providing a signature and electronically recording said signature of said patient.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising electronically notifying said pharmacist of said option selected by said patient to speak with said pharmacist.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein electronically disclosing said stored pharmaceutical counseling further comprises an act selected from the group consisting of: electronically displaying said stored pharmaceutical counseling to said patient on an electronic visual display, printing said stored pharmaceutical counseling on a print medium, generating a voice message reciting said stored pharmaceutical counseling, and combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein electronically prompting said patient with said first message is selected from the group consisting of: electronically displaying said first message to said patient on an electronic visual display, printing said first message on a print medium, generating a voice message reciting said first message, and combinations thereof.

11. (Currently amended) A system for providing interactive pharmaceutical information corresponding to a pharmaceutical product dispensed to a patient, said system comprising:

identification means for electronically identifying said pharmaceutical product, wherein said

identification means is physically associated with said pharmaceutical product;

scanning means for electronically identifying said identification means corresponding to said pharmaceutical product;

retrieval means for electronically retrieving stored pharmaceutical counseling identified by said scanning means;

an electronic input device for allowing said patient to accept or decline receiving said stored pharmaceutical counseling;

disclosing means for disclosing said stored pharmaceutical counseling to said patient upon interaction of said patient with said electronic input device; ~~and~~

means for storing a selection of said patient to accept or decline said stored pharmaceutical ~~counseling-counseling~~; and

a data base containing stored pharmaceutical counseling information in complete detail to conform to state regulations relating to approved prescription counseling;

wherein said retrieval means comprises a computer-based apparatus having electronic storage containing said data base.

12. (Previously canceled)

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said identification means is selected from the group consisting of a bar code, a magnetic strip, and a radio frequency identification tag.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein:
said identification means is said bar code; and
said scanning means is a bar-code scanner.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said disclosing means further comprises a device selected from the group consisting of a visual display, a touch-screen display, a speaker, a telephone receiver, head phones, a printer, and combinations thereof.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said computer-based apparatus is operatively configured to control said scanning means and a display means.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a notification device for informing a pharmacist of said interaction of said patient.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said computer-based apparatus is operatively connected to the Internet.

20. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising an electronic signature capture device for electronically recording a signature of said patient.

21. (Previously presented) A computer-based apparatus for providing pharmaceutical information to a patient, comprising:
an electronic identification device for identifying an active ingredient of a pharmaceutical product;
an electronic communication device for conveying prescription counseling to said patient;
an input device operably configured to provide said patient with a selective opportunity to accept or decline said prescription counseling;
an output device for disclosing said pharmaceutical counseling to said patient upon said patient selecting to accept said prescription counseling;
a central processing unit configured to run at least one executable software program, wherein said central processing unit includes at least one memory device with said at least one executable software program stored thereon; and
wherein said central processing unit controls, at least partially in response to said running of said at least one executable software program, said function of said electronic identification device, said electronic communication device, said input device, and said output device.

22. (Previously presented) The computer-based apparatus of claim 21, wherein said at least one executable software program directs said central processing unit to perform the steps of:
collecting data gathered by said electronic identification device;
generating said message;
receiving data collected by said input device; and
directing said output device to provide said pharmaceutical counseling to said patient.

23. (Original) The computer-based apparatus of claim 21, wherein said computer-based apparatus is operatively connected to the Internet.

24. (Original) The computer-based apparatus of claim 21, further comprising an electronic signature capture device for recording a signature of said patient.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the patient's selection of accepting or declining the prescription counseling.

26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said prescription counseling ~~complies~~ comply with state law requirements for prescription counseling.